

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 05524 190900Z

12

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 /063 W

----- 089406

R 190801Z MAY 75

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5048

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CH

SUBJECT: PRC REACTION TO THE "MAYAGUEZ" INCIDENT

1. THUS FAR CHINESE REACTION TO THE SWIFT, FORCEFUL US RESPONSE IN THE MAYAGUEZ INCIDENT SEEMS TO BE AS RESTRAINED AS POSSIBLE GIVEN CHINA'S EFFORT TO IDENTIFY CLOSELY WITH THE NEW REGIME IN CAMBODIA. MAJOR REACTIONS SO FAR HAVE BEEN IN THE FORM OF A MODERATELY AUTHORITATIVE COMMENTATOR ARTICLE IN PEOPLE'S DAILY MAY 17 AND VICE PREMIER LI HSIEN-NIEN'S COMMENTS AT A RECEPTION. COMMENTATOR COMPLAINED THAT THE US HAS NOT YET LEARNED THE LESSON OF HISTORY, IS STILL HOSTILE TO THE INDOCHINESE AND CONTINUING TO MAKE TROUBLE, BUT ASSERTED THESE EFFORTS ARE DOOMED AND WILL ONLY LEAD TO "MORE IGNOMINIOUS DEFEAT". THE ARTICLE PLEDGED THE CHINESE PEOPLE'S SUPPORT FOR THE CAMBODIAN PEOPLE, BUT MADE NO THREATS OF CHINESE ACTION.

2. VICE PREMIER LI AT A MAY 15 DRVN/PRG VICTORY RECEPTION IN PEKING BRANDED US ACTION AN "ACT OF PIRACY" TO BE CONDEMNED BY WORLD OPINION. INTERNATIONAL PRESS REPORTS THAT FIRST

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PAGE 02 HONG K 05524 190900Z

VICE PREMIER TENG HSIAO-PING REMARKED IN PARIS MAY 13 THAT

CHINA COULD DO NOTHING IF THE US INTERVENED IN THE AFFAIR
WITH FORCE HAVE NOT BEEN CARRIED IN PRC MEDIA. NCNA HAS
REPORTED ON VARIOUS CAMBODIAN STATEMENTS AND PRO-CAMBODIAN PRESS
REPORTS ON THE INCIDENT. NO MENTION HAS BEEN MADE OF ANY
US EFFORT TO COMMUNICATE WITH SIHANOUK IN PEKING OR THROUGH
PRC CHANNELS.

3. THE PRC-OWNED WEN WEI PAO IN HONG KONG MAY 19 CARRIED ON
INSIDE PAGES TWO STRONGLY-WORDED ARTICLES ON THE INCIDENT, ONE
OF WHICH DESCRIBED THE US AS A BADLY WOUNDED ANIMAL, PAUSING
IN FLIGHT TO TURN AND BITE BECAUSE IT IS EXTREMELY UPSET--"MAD"
RATHER THAN STRONG. AN UNDERWORLD PHILOSOPHY HAS REACHED INTO
THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF US POLICY MAKING. THE OTHER ARTICLE
ARGUES THAT THE US REMAINS IMPERIALIST AND MISTAKENLY THINKS
IT CAN DO ANYTHING IT WANTS.

CROSS

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